

**Annual Report**  
**of**  
**Denbighshire**  
**Standing Advisory Council**  
**for Religious Education**

**2015 - 2016**

## Foreword

### ***The Role of the Standing Advisory Council for Religious Education:***

The principal roles of SACRE are:

- Advising the Local Authority on matters to do with Religious Education and collective worship, or Spiritual and Moral Development;
- Consider applications from Headteachers that their school be released from the statutory requirements for Collective Worship to be wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character (such applications are known as 'Determinations');
- Require a Local Authority to review its Agreed Syllabus;
- Monitor the provision of RE, collective worship and spiritual, moral, social and cultural development in the schools of the Local Authority;
- Give advice on teacher agreed syllabus RE, including the choice of teacher materials;
- Advising the Local Authority on the provision of training for teachers (in RE);
- Considering complaints about the provision and delivery of RE and collective worship made to the Local Authority.
- To publish an Annual Report on its work.

The Composition of SACRE:

The statutory requirements for the setting up of SACREs require three committees of members:

- Representatives of Christian denominations or other religions and their denominations reflecting the principal religious traditions of the locality;
- Teacher representatives;
- County Council representatives.

There is also the right to co-opt members.

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### Executive Summary

<i>Topics/Issues:</i>	<i>Advice given:</i>	<i>Implemented By LEA:</i>
RE: Agreed Syllabus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The agreed syllabus conference continues to be deferred on the advice of WASACRE, due to the current curriculum reform.</li> </ul>	✓
RE: Standards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following consideration of Inspection Reports, schools are sent letters congratulating them for the good features.</li> <li>Results of the previous year's examinations for Religious Studies GCSE short course, full course and A level are presented and discussed.</li> </ul>	✓
RE: Choice of Teaching Materials	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No formal guidance, but the additional support and guidance for the Agreed Syllabus includes reference to some teaching materials.</li> <li>Secondary schools were provided with a resource entitled 'Muslim footballers in the premier league.'</li> </ul>	✓
RE: Provision of ITT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No visits possible this year.</li> </ul>	
Collective Worship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Following consideration of Inspection Reports, letters be sent to schools congratulating them for the good features.</li> </ul>	✓
Other Matters: Local	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SACRE has started to meet in schools.</li> <li>Members continue to discuss how best to monitor standards in schools</li> <li>The 'community links and local faith groups' case studies document has been completed and sent to all schools in the Local Authority</li> <li>SACRE has started to support school collaboration groups, developing materials and resources to support the teaching of RE.</li> <li>SACRE has started to support school collaboration groups, developing materials and resources to support the monitoring of RE.</li> </ul>	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Other Matters: National	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members receive regular updates of Estyn Inspection Reports or documents relating to RE and Collective Worship.</li> <li>Members be informed about developments and initiatives undertaken by DFES Skills.</li> <li>The SACRE maintain its membership of WASACRE, representatives attend and report back on the meetings of the association.</li> <li>WJEC analysis of Religious Studies examinations.</li> <li>WASACRE continues to ask SACRE's to evaluate and improve how they monitor and work with schools</li> </ul>	✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓
Other Matters: additional	No other additional matters.	
Complaints	No complaints received.	

## **The Annual Report**

### **2. Advice Given to the Local Authority**

#### **(a) Religious Education:**

##### **i. The Agreed Syllabus**

Denbighshire SACRE adopted the 'National Exemplar Framework for Religious Education for 3-19 year olds' as the Locally Agreed Syllabus for Denbighshire in 2008. The framework continues to be the basis of the Agreed Syllabus in Denbighshire. The Agreed Syllabus will be reviewed once the findings of the curriculum review are published.

A SACRE's main function is '...to advise the authority upon such matters connected with religious worship in county schools and the religious education to be given in accordance with an agreed syllabus as the authority may refer to the council or as the council may see fit.' Education Reform Act 1988 s.11 (1) (a)

In the summer term, training has been provided for a few schools who will continue to work collaboratively to develop resources supporting the Agreed Syllabus.

The planning document 'Comprehensive Guide to RE' and 'RE in the Foundation Phase', which complement the Agreed Syllabus, continue to be requested and used by schools.

##### **ii. Standards**

###### Examination results

The SACRE received details of the examination results for 2015

550 pupils sat the full course in 2015, 8 more than the year before. The full course results were slightly below the national average, 73.6% compared to 75.0%, and below last year's LA results by 2.8%.

293 pupils sat the short course in 2015, 259 more than the year before. The short course GCSE results were considerably below national trends, the overall A\*-C was 25.6%, 24.4% below the national results for all candidates, but a 5% increase on last year's local figures.

In 2015, 51 pupils sat an 'A' level in Religious Studies, 26 fewer than in 2014. For Advanced Level, the overall A\* – C rate was 86.3%, 5.3% above the national average, but 3.3% below when compared with last year's local figures.

###### Inspection Reports

Due to the current Estyn inspection framework there are no subject judgments in the Estyn reports. Instead, members receive information from the reports relating to Estyn's comments of a school's provision of SMSC. See part c Collective Worship - Monitoring provision - Inspection reports.

## **b. Methods of teaching**

The SACRE and LA have previously provided comprehensive documents and materials in support of the Agreed Syllabus, and these contain advice on methods of teaching and delivery of RE.

No advice has been given to schools regarding methods of teaching in 2014-15.

A small group of schools have met to work collaboratively during the summer term. The aim of this group is to develop curriculum resources that can be shared with all schools in the LA.

### **Choosing teaching resources**

The SACRE does not formally advise schools in the matter of purchasing teaching resources, deeming this to be a matter for the schools themselves.

A presentation was received regarding a resource created by a WASACRE executive member based on Muslim football players in the premier league to support the engagement of boys and RE in Key Stage 3. The resource was sent to local secondary schools.

### **Provision of Initial Teacher Training**

It had not been possible during the year to make a visit to or receive a visit from an Initial Teacher Training Institute.

## **c) Collective Worship**

### **Monitoring provision**

#### Inspection Reports

As part of the process of monitoring, Estyn Inspection Reports are analysed in terms of collective worship, spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC). These are compiled and noted by SACRE. Letters are sent to schools following the consideration of them in SACRE, commending good practice and offering support as may be necessary.

Over the year 12 schools' inspection reports were analysed as follows:

<b><i>Positive Comments in overall judgements</i></b>	<b><i>No of schools</i></b>
Current performance	1

<b><i>Positive Comments in quality indicators:</i></b>	<b><i>No of schools</i></b>
<b>Key Question 1: How good is outcomes?</b>	
Standards	1
Wellbeing	5
<b>Key Question 2: How good is provision?</b>	
Learning Experiences	11
Care support and guidance	12
Learning Environment	8
<b>Key Question 3: How good is leadership and management?</b>	
Leadership	1
Partnership working	3

### **iii) Guidance Documents**

Guidance documents created in previous years continue to be available to schools including 'A Comprehensive Guide to RE' and 'RE in the Foundation Phase'.

A small number of schools have worked collaboratively, and will continue to work together, to develop guidance for all schools in the LA on aspects of monitoring and curriculum planning.

### **iv) Resources recommended**

The guidance documents referred to above contain references to resources valued and recommended or evaluated by serving teachers. In addition, advice is offered in response to specific requests. Also schools are informed of resources through the RE News which is available to all schools electronically, they also have access to the Welsh National Centre for RE resources at Bangor University and also the St Mary's Centre for RE.

Self-evaluation materials continue to be promoted and are available on the REQM website.

### **v) INSET for Collective Worship**

No inset has been provided for Collective Worship in the current academic year.

### **vi) Evaluation of the effectiveness of guidance**

No formal evaluation of the original guidance material has been undertaken, but responses from schools to the materials, and comments offered through school visits have indicated how much the schools have valued the materials and used them in planning and enhancing their provision.

### **vii) Determinations**

No Determinations have been made.

## **3) Other Matters**

### **a) Local**

SACRE continues to conduct its meeting in schools, one secondary and two primary schools. SACRE observed one act of collective Worship in one of the host schools

SACRE commissioned the creation of a selection of case studies to promote good practice relating to local communities supporting Religious Education and Collective Worship. The resource has been emailed to all schools in the LA.

SACRE is supporting school to school collaborative groups that will develop curriculum and monitoring resources that will be shared with schools across the LA.

### **b) National**

Members received a presentation created by WJEC explaining the key points from an analysis of the data from the GCSE and 'A' level examinations in Religious Education in 2015.

Members continue to receive presentations regarding the implications of the Donaldson Review on Religious Education and the development of the pioneer network.

**(i) Estyn:**

Inspection Reports on schools were received and analysed, as reported.

**(ii) DFES:**

The SACRE has been informed of developments and initiatives undertaken by or through the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills. The Agreed Syllabus Conference has been postponed until DFES publishes its planned changes to the curriculum. WASACRE has met with Professor Donaldson to discuss RE's place in the current curriculum.

**(iii) WASACRE**

Members of SACRE and the LA were represented at all the meetings of WASACRE, and received some of the presentations that had been made. SACRE continued to receive reports from representatives attending the meetings of the Association, and also receiving of minutes and papers from WASACRE.

**(iv) Complaints**

No complaints were received by the SACRE.



#### **4. Appendices:**

##### **a) Composition of SACRE**

###### **Representing Religious Denominations:**

###### **Church in Wales**

Sylvia Harris  
Simon Cameron

###### **Roman Catholic**

Mary Ludenbach

###### **Baptist Union**

Nomination awaited (Welsh)  
Nomination awaited (English)

###### **Presbyterian**

Rev. Brian H Jones (Welsh)  
Christine Thomas (English)

###### **Methodist**

Rev. Martin Evans-Jones

###### **United Reformed**

Nomination awaited

###### **Union of Welsh Independents**

Nomination awaited

###### **Religious Society of Friends**

Dominic Oakes

###### **Salvation Army**

Captain Sian Radford

###### **Evangelical Movement Wales**

Nomination awaited

###### **Representing Teacher Associations:**

###### **Secondary Headteacher**

Nomination awaited

###### **Junior Headteacher**

Nomination awaited

###### **Secondary RE Specialists**

Cate Harmsworth

###### **Infant Headteacher**

Nomination awaited

###### **Special School Teachers**

Ms.Ali Ballantyne

###### **Junior Classroom Teacher**

Nomination awaited

###### **Infant Classroom Teacher**

Nomination awaited

###### **Representing Denbighshire County Council**

Councillor Dewi Owens  
Councillor Arwell Roberts  
Councillor Ann Davies

Councillor Bill Tasker  
Councillor Joe Welch

###### **Co-opted Members:**

Mr. Gavin Craigen [gavin@craigen.net] Autumn Meeting Only  
Tania Ap Sion – Director of the St. Mary's Centre [t.apsion@glyndwr.acuk]

**b) Number and dates of meetings**

SACRE meetings:

21<sup>st</sup> October 2015

12<sup>th</sup> February 2016

20<sup>th</sup> June 2016

**c) Organisations receiving the report**

- DFES
- The report is available on the WASACRE website for interested organisations

**Ysgolion Sir Ddinbych – Tabl 1**  
**Denbighshire Schools – Table 1**

**CANLYNIADAU TAGAU 2015: PAWB – ASTUDIAETHAU CREFYDDOL**  
**GCSE RESULTS 2015: ALL – RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

<i>Ysgolion n Schools</i>	<i>Cyfanswm /Totals</i>	<b>A*</b>	%	<b>A</b>	%	<b>B</b>	%	<b>C</b>	%	<b>D</b>	%	<b>E</b>	%	<b>F</b>	%	<b>G</b>	%	<b>U</b>	%	<b>% A* - C</b>	<b>% A* - G</b>
<i>Dinbych Denbigh</i>	16	1	6.3%	8	50.0%	4	25.0%	2	12.5%	1	6.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<b>93.8</b>	<b>100</b>
Glan Clwyd	22	4	18.2%	6	27.3%	3	13.6%	4	18.2%	3	13.6%	0	0.0%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<b>77.3</b>	<b>100</b>
Prestatyn	243	14	5.8%	49	20.2%	79	32.5%	57	23.5%	25	10.3%	9	3.7%	4	1.6%	4	1.6%	1	0.4%	<b>87.9</b>	<b>99.2</b>
Dinas Bran	108	6	5.6%	6	5.6%	20	18.5%	23	21.3%	26	24.1%	15	13.9%	5	4.6%	4	3.7%	3	2.8%	<b>50.9</b>	<b>97.2</b>
Brynhyfryd	22	4	18.2%	9	40.9%	3	13.6%	3	13.6%	1	4.5%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<b>86.4</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Y Rhyl/Rhyl</i>	39	0	0.0%	1	2.6%	7	17.9%	9	23.1%	9	23.1%	11	28.2%	1	2.6%	1	2.6%	0	0.0%	<b>43.6</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Ben Ed Jones/Bl. Ed Jones</i>	50	0	0.0%	7	14.0%	13	26.0%	14	28.0%	9	18.0%	3	6.0%	2	4.0%	1	2.0%	1	2.0%	<b>68</b>	<b>98</b>
<i>Santes Ffraid/ St Brigids</i>	50	13	26.0%	15	30.0%	19	38.0%	2	4.0%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	<b>98</b>	<b>100</b>
<b><i>Cyfanswm AALI/ LA Totals</i></b>	550	42	7.6%	101	18.4%	148	26.9%	114	20.7%	74	13.5%	40	7.3%	14	2.5%	10	1.8%	5	0.9%	<b>73.6</b>	<b>99.6</b>
<b><i>Holl Cymru All Wales</i></b>	<b>11,167</b>		<b>11</b>		<b>19</b>		<b>24</b>		<b>20</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>7</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>3</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>98</b>

*Ysgolion Sir Ddinbych – Tabl 2*  
Denbighshire Schools – Table 2

**CANLYDIADAU TGAU 2015 PAWB – ASTUDIAETHAU GREFYDDOL: CWRS BYR**  
**GCSE RESULTS 2015: ALL – RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SHORT COURSE**

<i>Ysgolion Schools</i>	<i>Cyfanswm /Totals</i>	<b>A*</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>U</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>% A* - C</b>	<b>% A* - G</b>
<i>Dinbych Denbigh</i>	82	5	6.1%	5	6.1%	18	22.0%	16	19.5%	11	13.4%	18	22.0%	6	7.3%	2	2.4%	1	1.2%	53.7	98.8
<i>Glan Clwyd</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Prestatyn</i>	38	1	2.6%	0	0	1	2.6%	6	15.8%	0	0	2	5.3%	8	21.1%	11	28.9%	5	13.2%	21.1	76.3
<i>Dinas Bran</i>	22	0	0	0	0	1	4.5%	7	31.8%	1	4.5%	6	27.3%	4	18.2%	3	13.6%	0	0	36.4	100
<i>Brynhyfryd</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100
<i>Y Rhyl/Rhyl</i>	90	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4.4%	6	6.7%	11	12.2%	17	18.9%	16	17.8%	34	37.8%	4.4	60
<i>Ben Ed Jones/Bl. Ed Jones</i>	52	0	0	0	0	2	3.8%	5	9.6%	7	13.5%	14	26.9%	9	17.3%	8	15.4%	6	11.5%	13.5	86.5
<i>Santes Ffraid/ St Brigids</i>	4	0	0	0	0	1	25.0%	1	25.0%	1	25.0%	1	25.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	50	100
<i>Cyfanswm AAL/ LA Totals</i>	<b>293</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1.7%</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>9.2%</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>17.7%</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>15.4%</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>13.7%</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>25.6</b>	<b>81.6</b>
<i>Holl Cymru All Wales</i>	<b>10,098</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>10</b>		<b>17</b>		<b>21</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>12</b>		<b>9</b>		<b>6</b>		<b>7</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>93</b>

*Ysgolion Sir Ddinbych – Tabl 3*      *CANLYNIADAU SAFON UWCH 2015 – PAWB ASTUDIAETHAU CREFYDDOL*  
 Denbighshire Schools – Table 3      GCE ADVANCED LEVEL RESULTS 2015: ALL – RELIGIOUS STUDIES

<i>Ysgolion Schools</i>	<i>Cyfanswm /Totals</i>	<b>A*</b>	%	<b>A</b>	%	<b>B</b>	%	<b>C</b>	%	<b>D</b>	%	<b>E</b>	%	<b>U</b>	%	% A* - C	% A* - E
<i>Dinbych Denbigh</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
<i>Glan Clwyd</i>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	100.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
<i>Prestatyn</i>	23	0	0	0	0	6	26.1%	11	47.8%	4	17.4%	2	8.7%	0	0	73.9	100
<i>Dinas Bran</i>	2	0	0	2	100.0%	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
<i>Brynhyfryd</i>	12	0	0	3	25.0%	4	33.3%	5	41.7%	0	0	0	0	0	0	100	100
<i>Y Rhyl/Rhyl</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Ben Ed Jones/Bl. Ed Jones</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Santes Ffraid/ St Brigids</i>	12	1	8.3%	3	25.0%	3	25.0%	4	33.3%	1	8.3%	0	0	0	0	91.7	100
<i>Cyfanswm AALL/ LA Totals</i>	<b>51</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>15.7%</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>25.5%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43.1%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3.9%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>86.3</b>	<b>100</b>
<i>Holl Cymru All Wales</i>	<b>1444</b>		<b>4</b>		<b>19</b>		<b>31</b>		<b>27</b>		<b>14</b>		<b>5</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>100</b>